

REMARKS

Claim 11 has been cancelled. Claims 10 and 12-19 have been amended. Claims 10 and 12-19 remain pending in the present application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goodwin (U.S. Patent No. 1,583,454). The Examiner alleges that Goodwin anticipates Applicants' claims.

Claim 10 has been amended. Claim 10, among other elements, further defines that the knife bar is supported on the rollers. Also, the roller holder is formed as a bridge between two neighboring reaping fingers.

The Goodwin reference cited by the Examiner illustrates rollers positioned between the U-shaped plates. The rollers are incapable of supporting the knife bar since the rollers are surrounded by the U-shaped plate. Further, the holders are not formed as a bridge between two reaping fingers. Accordingly, the Goodwin reference fails to anticipate Applicants' claims. Likewise, Goodwin fails to render Applicants' claims obvious to those skilled in the art. Since Goodwin is incapable of supporting the knife bar by the roller, it would not be obvious to do so. Only by utilizing impermissible hindsight would one skilled in the art reach such a conclusion. Accordingly, Applicants believes Claim 10 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

Likewise, Claims 12-19, which depend from Claim 10, are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.


In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.
Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should
not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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